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NOTES AND NEWS.

THE DIVISION OF HYDROGRAPHY, U. S. Geological Survey, notes the loss of water in the southern course of the Rio Grande, through seepage in the wide, sandy bed, and it is estimated that by diverting water from the river in central New Mexico 150,000 additional acres of land could be irrigated.

A site for a reservoir is now under examination in a gorge just below the junction of Salt River and Tonto Creek, in Arizona. The capacity of the reservoir, with a dam 200 feet in elevation above the bed of the river, will be more than that of the great Nile reservoir. Materials are at hand for making cement on the spot for the construction of the dam, and the reservoir, when finished, will supply irrigation for nearly 200,000 acres of land.

Prof. C. S. Slichter, of the University of Wisconsin, has been studying the speed of the underflow in the sands of the Arkansas river. Two test wells are driven and electrically connected. In the up-stream well is placed an electrolyte, or dissoluble substance, which affects the electric current. This electrolyte enters the underground water at the first well and passes down stream to the second. In the circuit between the two wells the needle of an instrument records the approach and the arrival of the electrolyte, and by watching the needle it is possible to trace the movement of the water and the variations of its flow.

The rate of the underflow in the Arkansas river was found to be 3 feet to 15 feet per day.

Devil's Lake, in North Dakota, the largest body of water in the State, covers about 350 square miles. It is a glacial lake, and once had an outlet to the south into the Sheyenne river, through a well-marked empty channel. Observations for the last nineteen years show an almost uninterrupted sinking. Groves of trees, which once stood at the beach, are now separated from it by broad strips of sand, and the shallow parts of the lake, notably the long arms and bays, have been left quite dry.

Another change is in the water from fresh to salt; this has taken place within the memory of man, and is in some particulars producing unfavourable results. Fish were found in great abundance up to about 1888; now, practically none are caught.

The United States Geological Survey has established a benchmark near the lake, and, under the charge of Prof. C. M. Hall, of the State Agricultural College, will make careful records of the fluctuations of the waters and a general study of their decline.

THE PEARY ARCTIC CLUB is now refitting the *Windward* for her summer voyage to the North. The ship is to be furnished with new engines and a new boiler of the most improved kind. The work will be completed by June 20, and the vessel will sail at once, that advantage may be taken of the conditions in Smith Sound, which are more favourable early in the season. The *Windward* will join Peary either at Etah, on the eastern side, or Cape Sabine, on the western side of Smith Sound.

THE BERLIN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY has consolidated its two periodicals, the *Verhandlungen* and the *Zeitschrift*, in the *Zeitschrift der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin*, to be issued ten times a year, beginning with January, 1902. The new publication is a large octavo of 96 pages, and the first number contains an article by Dr. Karl Sapper, contributions to the Physical Geography of Honduras, with a valuable map on a scale of 1:1,000,000.

A COMMUNICATION from La Sociedad Científica Argentina, under date of January 19, announces the death of its Honorary Member and ex-President, Doctor Carlos Berg.

DECISIONS OF THE U. S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES, JANUARY 8 TO APRIL 2, 1902:

AEKTOK: island, near west end of Avatanak island, Krenitzin group, eastern Aleutians, Alaska. (Not Aiaktak, Goloi, Goly, Ouektok, nor Rootok.)

AGAMGIK: bay, indenting the northern shore of Beaver Bay, Unalaska island, eastern Aleutians, Alaska. (Not Food.)

BATTERY: point, the eastern head of Sarana bay on south shore of Akutan island, eastern Aleutians, Alaska. (Not Kainak, Liberty Cap, nor South Head.)

BOSPORUS: strait between Black Sea and Sea of Marmora, Europe. (*Note*.—This is a reversal of the decision Bosphorus rendered by the Board, January 12, 1897.)

CHIWAHA: creek, Chehalis county, Washington. (Not Chi-wahwah.)

CURLEW: creek, lake, and P. O., Ferry county, Washington. (Not Karamin nor Karamip.)

FOREST: lake, in Woodbury, Orange county, N. Y. (Not Slaughter's Pond.)

GOOSMUS creek, Ferry county, Washington. (Not Goos nor Koosmus.)

HOWES: cave, in Cobleskipp, Schoharie county, N. Y. (Not Otsgaragee.)

HOWES CAVE: P. O., Schoharie county, N. Y. (Not Howecave, Howe Cave, Hows Cave, nor Howe's Cave.)

ILIULIUK: the chief town of Unalaska, eastern Aleutians, Alaska. (Not Unalaska.)

KISSELEN: bay, at the head of Beaver bay, Unalaska, eastern Aleutians, Alaska. (Not Kissialiak, Warsham nor Worsham.)

LEVASHEF: port or harbour at head of Unalaska bay, Unalaska, eastern Aleutians, Alaska. (Not Captains nor St. Paul.)

MARCY: mountain peak, the highest point in the Adirondacks, Essex county, N. Y. (Not Tahawus.)

MECHANICVILLE P. O. and village, Saratoga county, N. Y. (Not Mechanicsville.) (*Note.*—This is a reversal of the decision Mechanicsville rendered by the Board, April 4, 1900.)

RABBIT: creek, Ferry county, Washington. (Not St. Helen.)

SAMGANUDA: bay indenting the eastern shore of Unalaska, eastern Aleutians, Alaska. (Not English.)

SANPOIL: lake and river, Ferry county, Washington. (Not Rowena nor San Poil.)

SIGAK: cape, the north point of Akutan island, eastern Aleutians, Alaska. (Not North Head.)

ST. HELENS: mountain, in Skamania county, Washington. (Not St. Helen.)

ST. PETER: creek and flat, Ferry county, Washington. (Not Rock.)

ST. VRAIN: creek and precinct, Weld county, Col. (Not St. Vrains.)

TANASKAN: bay, indenting the southern shore of Beaver Bay, Unalaska, eastern Aleutians, Alaska. (Not Macks nor Taneska.)

TANGIK: islet, near the eastern shore of Akun island, Krenitzin group, eastern Aleutians, Alaska. (Not Waverly.)

TANGINAK: islet, east of Akun island, in Unimak pass, Alaska. (Not Breed nor Propagation.)

TERODA: creek and mountain, in Ferry and Okanogan counties, Washington. (Not Tarrota nor Toroda.)

UGALGAN: island, near the easternmost point of Unalaska, eastern Aleutians, Alaska. (Not Egg, Gagalgin, Iachnoi, Jaitschoi, Kigalgin nor Orieshek.)

UNALASKA: bay, indenting the northeastern shore of Unalaska island, eastern Aleutians, Alaska. (Not Captains.)

URILIA: bay, on the northern coast of Unimak, eastern Aleutians, Alaska. (Not Shag nor Shaw.)

USOF: bay, indenting the southeastern shore of Unalaska, eastern Aleutians, Alaska. (Not Whalebone.)

WALLKILL: river, in Ulster and Orange counties, New York. (Not Wall Kill.)

WITCHCOAT: point, Back river, Baltimore county, Md. (Not Witchcoate.)